

Welburn Organic Farm

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40787 De Luz Murrieta Rd.
Fallbrook, CA 92028

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September 29, 1999

To: USDA Secretary Dan Glickman

From: Sue Welburn



Dear Mr. Glickman,

Please support mandatory labeling of all genetically modified foods and genetically modified organisms. I have attached a copy of an article taken from our California Certified Organic Farmers current newsletter for your reference.

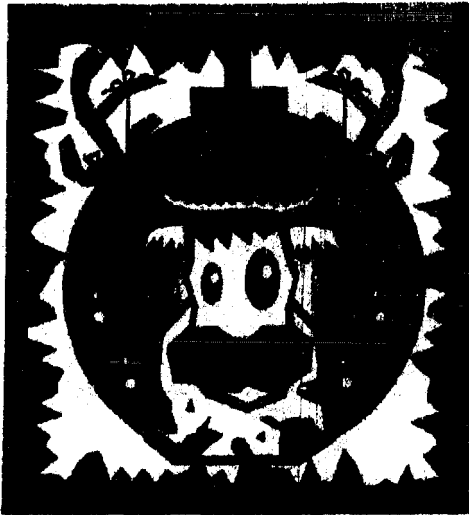
Sincerely,

Sue Welburn

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GMO'S: Tell it like it is!

The following testimony was given by CCOF's Government Affairs Committee Chair, David Letourneau. This listening session was sponsored by CDFA and USDA for the purpose of obtaining input for the next round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

As a small organic Farmer, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee and member of the hard of Directors of the California Certified Organic Farmers I want to thank you for this opportunity.

I would like to direct my comments specifically to the issues regarding genetic engineering and genetically modified organisms; the actual dangers of genetic engineering to the integrity of organic production and the effects on human health and the environment; the inadequacy of our governmental regulatory agencies; and the resulting problems with international trade.

We no longer want to be the guinea pigs for inadequately tested and unregulated bad science for the benefit of big business!

By genetic engineering I mean the altering of the genetic code by recombinant DNA techniques.

Last year we had contamination of certified organic corn by the pollen from corn that had been genetically altered with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (bt) toxin. Last month evidence was presented by Cornell University on the 44% mortality rate of the Monarch butterfly caterpillar that ingested pollen from Bt altered corn.

This spring genetically contaminated soybean seed was sold to unsuspecting organic farmers.

Research in Scotland shows that rats fed genetically altered potatoes developed atrophied livers, shrunk brains and swollen testicles, as compared to rats fed normal potatoes, who developed none of these symptoms.

Research in the US shows that crows injected with the recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone have increased levels of insulin-like growth factor #1. These increased levels have been shown to cause prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. It is unknown what the effects are in the unborn, babies and prepubescent children.

The USDA jointly owns the patent for the Terminator seed with the ~~Delta and Pine Land CO.~~, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Monsanto. Thus has the USDA has become not only the regulator of these biotech companies, but partners with them as well.

The EPA requires Bt genetically altered crops to be registered as pesticides, while the FDA allows them to be sold as food.

Now, the US Trade Representative and the World Trade Organization are trying to force the other countries of the world to accept this flawed technology.

The power of the consumer will ultimately prove stronger than the multi-national corporations, US regulatory agencies, trade representatives and treaties. If European, Japanese and American consumers reject hormone treated beef and genetically manipulated foods then all the trade representatives, regulatory agencies and treaties in the world will not matter.

This should not be a battle between the people and their representatives. We are here to ask for your help. We want an end to this unregulated and disastrous technology. We want a change of direction. We no longer want to be the guinea pigs for inadequately tested and unregulated bad science for the benefit of big business.

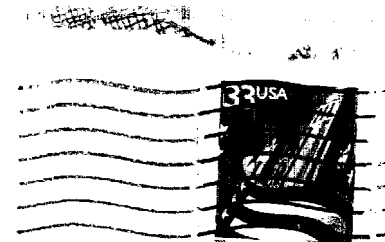
CCOF is opposed to the continued release of genetically modified organisms into the environment by experimentation in open fields and in commercial applications.

CCOF insists on the labeling of all products of genetic engineering so we can all exercise our free choice. This is the true meaning of transparency.

And, instead of risk assessment, we are calling for the application of the precautionary principle which demands that no action be taken until you can prove no harm. Thank you



S. Wellborn
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USDA Secretary Dan Glickman
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